



Friendly Neighbor News

Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park, FL 32064

“Where People Enjoy Living”

“The mission of Advent Christian Village, Inc. is to express Christ’s love by providing compassionate care and quality comprehensive services for senior adults, families with special needs, and children, in a secure, supportive residential setting and in the surrounding communities.”

DECEMBER 8, 2023

Need help over the weekend? Call the Information Center at 658-3333.

Friday	12/8	8:45 & 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon <i>10:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m.	Bus Trip: Valdosta Shopping—DH & LAP Veterans’ Service—MS <i>Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> Sit ‘N Stitch—CH
Saturday	12/9	8:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Ladies’ Breakfast—SMR/DR Men’s Fellowship Breakfast—RDR “Let Heaven and Nature Sing” Christmas Cantata—VC
Sunday	12/10	<i>9:40 a.m.</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	<i>Worship Service—VC</i> <i>Sunday School for All Ages</i> Coloring Book Time of Fellowship—DH Lobby “Let Heaven and Nature Sing” Christmas Cantata—VC
Monday	12/11	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Morning Missions Meeting (WHFMS)—VC Room 5 VCBI: Lessons from the Fisherman—VC Room 5
Tuesday	12/12	<i>8:30 a.m.</i> <i>1:30 p.m.</i> 6:30 p.m.	<i>Men’s Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> <i>Voice of the Martyrs—OPR</i> Evening Missions Meeting (WHFMS)—OPR
Wednesday	12/13	8:45 & 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:15 & 1:30 P.m. <i>6:00 p.m.</i>	Bus Trip: Publix—CH & DH The Star of Bethlehem Presentation—VC Room 5 Bridge Club—OPR Bus Trip: Walmart—CH & DH <i>Prayer Meeting—BC</i>
Thursday	12/14	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Village Artists Guild—KC Member Birthday Party—SMR/DR
Friday	12/15	The Village Pharmacy will be closed today from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon <i>10:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 5:15 & 5:30 p.m.	Veterans’ Service—Member Services <i>Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> Sit ‘N Stitch—CH Parade on Wheels Golf Cart Parade Bus Trip: Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park—DH & LAP

ACV Advent Christian Village	CT/MT Cardinal/Magnolia Terrace	IC Information Center	POP Park of the Pines
BA Butterfield Acres	DH Dowling House	JKPL Jo Kennon Public Library	RDR Rumph Dining Room
BC Bixler Chapel	DM Dacier Manor	KC Keepers Cottage	RV Smith Riverview Apartments
CB Chriss Building	DMA Dowling Manor	LAP Lake Aquilla Parking Lot	RW Riverwoods
CH Carter House	DR Depot Room	MS Member Services	SMR Sawmill Room
CCC Copeland Community Center	ET Edgewood Terrace	OPR Old Pavilion Room	VC Village Church
CMC Copeland Medical Center	GSC Good Samaritan Center	PCS Polk Ceramics Shop	VS Village Square

BOLD: ONE-TIME AND MONTHLY EVENTS — ITALIC: PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

IN LOVING MEMORY

- Walter Howell Jr., who was a resident of GSC, died Dec. 4. His memorial information will be provided when available.
- Trudy Lee, who was a resident of CH, DM, and GSC, died Dec. 2. Her memorial information will be provided when available.
- Judith Mimranek, who was a resident of GSC, died Dec. 1. Her funeral service will be Thursday, Dec. 14, at 2:00 p.m., at the Brody Harris Memorial Chapel, with visitation starting at 1:00 p.m. Interment will be Friday, Dec. 15, at Tallahassee Memorial Cemetery.
- Shirley Scott, who was a resident of CH, died Nov. 28. Her memorial information will be provided when available.
- Linda Kitchens (wife of Johnnie), who was a resident of GSC, died Nov. 24. Her memorial information will be provided when available.
- Violet Haberer, who was a resident of DH and GSC, died Nov. 1. She will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- James Butler, who was a resident of GSC, died Oct. 24. He will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- Patty Severe, who was a resident of GSC, died Oct. 24. She will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- Vela Wilson, who was a resident of GSC, died Oct. 13. She will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- Michael Chester, who was a resident of GSC, died Oct. 4. He will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
- Robert Cannon, who was a resident of GSC, died Oct. 4. He will be remembered at the GSC memorial service on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10:00 a.m.

MOVE OUT

Nancy Hillstromb has moved from POP. Her new address is 1104 FM 2296 Rd., Huntsville, TX 77340.

ACV EVENTS

BUS TRIP: VALDOSTA SHOPPING

Friday, Dec. 8

8:45 a.m. - DH & 9:00 a.m. - LAP

Bus: \$8.00 members, \$14 non-members

It's Christmas shopping time. The trip bus will be going to Valdosta to visit the mall and surrounding shopping centers on Friday, Dec. 8. The bus will leave from DH at 8:45 a.m. and from LAP at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be Dutch treat at a Valdosta restaurant. Bus fee: \$8.00 for ACV members and \$14 for non-members. Sign up at the IC.

LADIES' BREAKFAST

Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. - SMR/DR

The next ladies' breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in SMR/DR. There will be no guest speaker; we will use the time to fellowship and get to know everyone. A special invitation is extended to new residents; we want to meet you! Come join us for a wonderful time of table fellowship.

The cost of the full and delicious breakfast buffet is \$7.00. Tickets must be pre-purchased at the Lopin' Gopher.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. - RDR

The next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in RDR.

The cost of the full and delicious breakfast buffet is \$7.00. Tickets must be pre-purchased at the Lopin' Gopher. Come join us for fellowship, prayer, inspiration and breaking bread together!



"LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING" CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Saturday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. - VC

Sunday, Dec. 10, 3:00 p.m. - VC

One of the highlights of the season is the Christmas cantata. This year there will be two free presentations of "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" at the VC: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3:00 p.m. You may attend one or both! The ACV cantata choir, Te Deum handbell ensemble, and a guest string quartet will present a musical time of remembrance and worship using both new and familiar music. No tickets are required; simply show up and take a seat.

MEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday, Dec. 14, 3:00 p.m. - SMR/DR

Join us for the December member birthday party. We'll be celebrating "A Carol to Remember", led by Dick Grillo. Everyone is invited, and ACV members with December birthdays will receive special recognition. See you there!

CHRISTMAS PARADE

ANNUAL PARADE ON WHEELS GOLF CART PARADE

Friday, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m.

Bring out your golf carts, bikes, scooters, antique cars ... anything with wheels ... decorated for the Christmas season! This year's theme is "A Florida Christmas", so deck your wheels using our theme or yours.

The parade will travel around the ACV campus for all to enjoy. Following the parade, join us at CCC for refreshments and the announcement of winners.

Entries need to line up in the LAP by 2:00 p.m. for judging. The parade will start at 2:30 p.m.



LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

Friday, Dec. 8

Grilled Reuben

Saturday, Dec. 9

Pulled Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, Cornbread



BUS TRIP: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT SPIRIT OF THE SUWANNEE MUSIC PARK

Friday, Dec. 15

5:15 p.m. - DH & 5:30 p.m. - LAP

Bus: \$9.00 members, \$13 non-members

Bus transportation will be provided to visit Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park to drive through and enjoy the Suwannee Lights display on Friday, Dec. 15. The bus will leave DH at 5:15 p.m. and LAP at 5:30 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$9.00 for ACV members and \$13 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee for Spirit of the Suwannee. Sign up at the IC. There are two more Christmas lights trips scheduled this season if this date doesn't work for you.

CANCELED: BUS TRIP: LIVE OAK CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, Dec. 16

The bus trip to watch the rescheduled Live Oak Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 16, has been canceled. We apologize for any inconvenience.



BUS TRIP: COMMUNITY CONCERTS OF LAKE CITY: GAINESVILLE POPS

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Florida Gateway College

Alfonso Levy Performing Arts Center

149 SE College Place, Lake City

5:45 p.m. - DH & 6:00 p.m. - LAP

Bus: \$5.00 members, \$9.00 non-members

Thirty-five top musicians present a feast of favorite Christmas music and more. Modeled after Boston Pops, Gainesville Pops employs traditional concert band instrumentation to provide a pleasing blend of woodwinds, brass and percussion.

This event is included in your ACV season pass, or you may purchase individual tickets by calling (386) 365-8488 or visiting communityconcerts.info. Individual ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The ACV bus fee is \$5.00 for ACV members and \$9.00 for non-members. Sign up at the IC.

COOKIES AND CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m. - RDR

There are many wonderful things about the Christmas season; Christmas cookies and carols are probably near the top of many people's "favorite things" list. Plan to gather in the dining room on Sunday evening, Dec. 17, at 6:00 to share some cookies and to sing some carols. You're invited to bring your favorite cookies to share potluck style. Beverages will be provided. Fa-la-la-la-yum!



FOUNDER'S DAY

Monday, Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m. - RDR

On Dec. 17, 1913, the Setzer children from North Carolina moved to Dowling Park and thus began the ministry of ACV. Founder's Day was established to commemorate that special event and to provide an opportunity for us to be reminded of how God has blessed ACV by focusing on a specific area of ministry.

Founder's Day 2023 is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18, at 12:30 p.m., and you are encouraged to come out and enjoy this history of ACV. Come early for a delicious buffet lunch in the RDR (\$10 for members, and \$12 for non-members; tickets are available from the Lopin' Gopher for those who would like to avoid waiting in line) and stay for the special program. We hope to see you there.

BUS TRIP: DINE-OUT TO THE PLAZA RESTAURANT

Monday, Dec. 18

2:15 p.m. - DH & 2:30 p.m. - LAP

Bus: \$7.00 members, \$12 non-members

Sign up at the IC to join this bus trip to Thomasville, Georgia. Supper will be at The Plaza Restaurant. Thomasville does a great job of decorating for Christmas every year, so following supper, a little time will be spent enjoying downtown Thomasville. Sign up at the IC. You must sign up by end of day, Tuesday, Dec. 12, so we can give them a count on the 13th.



CHRISTMAS STORYTIME

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m. - OPR

If some of your favorite things this time of year are reading or listening to a favorite Christmas story, book or poem; hearing, playing or singing special Christmas favorites; and enjoying some Christmas goodies, join us at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 19 in the OPR.

The program will be an "open mic" format so that you may share some of your favorites. You are invited to share a Christmas story or poem. You may even want to just tell about a favorite Christmas book. These presentations should be no longer than five minutes each. If you plan to share some music, call MS at 658-5400 to make sure we are prepared. Another way to share would be to bring some of your favorite goodies. Call MS if you have questions.



BUS TRIP: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT SPIRIT OF THE SUWANNEE MUSIC PARK

Friday, Dec. 19

5:15 p.m. - DH & 5:30 p.m. - LAP

Bus: \$9.00 members, \$13 non-members

Bus transportation will be provided to visit Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park to drive through and enjoy the Suwannee Lights display on Tuesday, Dec. 19. The bus will leave DH at 5:15 p.m. and LAP at 5:30 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$9.00 for ACV members and \$13 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee for Spirit of the Suwannee. Sign up at the IC. There is one more Christmas lights trip scheduled this season if this date doesn't work for you.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2:30-4:00 p.m. - RDR

ACV President Craig Carter and his wife, Vicky, are pleased to invite the membership to the President's Christmas Reception in RDR on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. You are encouraged to attend this special time of fellowship filled with festive music and holiday treats.

LUKAS AND RACHEL MILLER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. - VC

Live Oak's Lukas and Rachel Miller, a brother-and-sister team who performed at ACV last Christmas, are returning to bless us once again with their beautiful singing voices on Friday, Dec. 22. The pair will sing both solos and duets of old and new holiday favorites. Plan to attend this concert — free of charge — a gift to the Village by these two accomplished musicians.





**BUS TRIP:
STEPHEN FOSTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

Saturday, Dec. 23

4:30 p.m. - DH & 4:45 p.m. - LAP

Bus: \$10 members, \$15 non-members

Bus transportation will be provided Saturday, Dec. 23, to visit Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center in White Springs, Florida, to not only drive through the lights display, but also to get out and enjoy complimentary popcorn, hot cocoa, marshmallows by the bonfire, Santa, food and craft vendors, and more. Dress for outdoor comfort. On the way, the bus will stop at McDonald's in White Springs for a quick supper. The bus will leave DH at 4:30 p.m. and LAP at 4:45 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$10 for ACV members and \$15 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee. Sign up at the IC.

Christmas
BANQUET

Monday, Dec. 25

**Four seating options: 11:00 a.m.,
11:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m.**

Rumph Dining Room

Free for members; \$21 for non-members

Every year, the Christmas buffet is a free gift from ACV to its members. Tickets are still required as seating is limited. Tickets are available at MS during regular business hours and at the IC overnight and on weekends.

Family and guests are also welcome to attend. Ticket prices for family and guests are \$21 for adults and \$8.00 for children 5-12. For non-member tickets, you must first pay at the Village Cashier's office during regular operating hours (Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and present the receipt to pick up a non-member ticket. Tickets may also be paid for over the phone by calling the Cashier at 658-5343 during regular operating hours.

In order to facilitate the seating of groups, we ask that you let us know if you are part of a group seating when you pick up your tickets. If you put together a group after picking up your tickets, please call 658-5400 to let us know who is in your group. We need to know of groups of seven or more before Friday, Dec. 22, to make sure we have enough large tables ready.

Each ACV member may pick up for free either one seating ticket or one to-go ticket. Seating tickets and to-go tickets may only be used on Christmas Day at RDR. To-go tickets may be redeemed anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

EVENTS HERE AND THERE

Events in this section are not sponsored by ACV, even if they take place at ACV.

**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF LIVE OAK
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES**

Saturday, Dec. 9, 12:00 noon

The 19th Altrusa Christmas Tour of Homes will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, beginning at 12:00 noon. This event can be enjoyed by families and friends as a wonderful way to share our community at this special time of the year. Community members have graciously offered their seasonally decorated homes for this year's tour.

The Christmas Tour of Homes will begin at the Live Oak Garden Club on 11th Street at noon. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 (children 12 and under are free). Tickets can also be purchased in advance for \$12 from Altrusa members. Booklets that contain a description of the homes written by the homeowner and a map with driving directions will be

provided, along with light refreshments. The Christmas Tour of Homes ends at 5:00 p.m.

Altrusa International of Live Oak is a non-profit organization made up of professional business women in the community who are dedicated to the advancement of literacy, education, and community service. All profits from this event will go back into our community. Annual contributions go to each public school in Suwannee County to assist with literacy projects, for scholarships to a high school student, and scholarships at River Oak Technical College. Additionally funding goes to the Suwannee River Regional Library Literacy Program and Leadership Camp scholarships. In addition, Altrusa members volunteer time and their non-cash contributions to a number of community organizations.

For more information, you may check us out at www.facebook.com/AltrusaLiveOak or call Sharon Jordan at (386) 362-8616 or Ann Thompson at (386) 208-2764. Tickets are available by calling Ann Thompson.

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

André Rieu Concert:

Christmas Around the World

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2:00 p.m. - OPR

This concert was recorded in Germany and will bring us the festive atmosphere! Along with the orchestra and choir, there are the beautiful sopranos. The most heartwarming performances may be the Japanese Children's Choir with voices like angels! Of course, all of these are placed in a setting with the most atmospheric décor and lighting you can imagine.

Come join us on this coming Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2:00 p.m. in the OPR for this beautiful, festive concert! Everyone is welcome.



JO KENNON PUBLIC LIBRARY

386-658-2670

Website: srrlib.org

Email: dpark@neflin.org

Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Closed Dec. 25-26

JKPL will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holidays. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday. For your convenience, our online catalog, digital resources, and book drop will still be available.

SongFarmers

Join everyone's favorite multi-genre acoustic group as they prepare for the Christmas holiday with a festive jam session. SongFarmers will be in the SMR/DR on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6:00 p.m. Get ready to get into the spirit of the season. If you enjoy doing a little pickin' of your own, feel free to join in and play a tune as well. Celebrate the season with friends!

The Polar Express

All aboard on the Polar Express for a magical Christmas train ride! On Friday, Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m., wear your favorite PJs, and join us for some hot cocoa and a movie. We will be showing the highly acclaimed film *The Polar Express* with no stops until it reaches the North Pole. Based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg, this film has become a staple of Christmas viewing and is loved by children and adults alike.

Christmas Card Swap

We would like to thank those of you that have started the Christmas Card Swap rolling, and invite others to bring your extra Christmas cards to the JKPL and exchange them between now and the week before Christmas. Swap Shopping Days are during JKPL hours; come in at your convenience. Find the perfect card to send to friends, family, and those you haven't heard from in a while. We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Photo Op at the JKPL

Christmas pictures were an annual tradition when I was growing up. Even now, my family takes an annual

DEPARTMENT NEWS

THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Rev. Sam Worley, Senior Minister
Church Office - 658-5344 - P.O. Box 4314

SERMON: "Peace for Times Like These"

TEXT: Luke 2:1-14; Matthew 1:18-24 NIV '84

SPEAKER: Rev. Sam Worley

The Youth Fellowship will be delivering **Singing Christmas Cards** Dec. 13-22. To send a singing Christmas card to a loved one or friend in the Dowling Park area, please fill out the form on Page 11 of this FNN and return it to the church office. We ask those sending a Singing Christmas Card to make a donation to our youth ministry program. Please make your check payable to the Village Church noting "Singing Christmas Cards" in the memo. Each greeting comes with a personalized Christmas card accompanied by Christmas carols sung by the members of our Youth Fellowship. Please remember, ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DEC. 10. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Randy at the church office, 658-5344.

Our **WHFMS circles** always meet the second Monday and Tuesday of each month. The Vesta Clothey Circle will meet Monday, Dec. 11, at 9:30 a.m. in VC Room 5. We will be packing the Christmas bags for GSC and DM. You can bring individually wrapped chocolates to the meeting or drop them off at the church office. The Christina Baker Circle will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the OPR. This circle will be working on a project for the local shelter for domestic violence. You are welcome to join us for either (or both) meetings!)

The following VC events are happening this week:

Friday, Dec. 8

10:00 a.m. — Bible Study, Tom Spannagle (VC Room 5)

Saturday, Dec. 9

8:30 a.m. — Men's Fellowship Breakfast (RDR)

6:30 p.m. — Christmas Cantata: "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" (VC)

Sunday, Dec. 10

9:40 a.m. — Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. — Sunday School for all ages

3:00 p.m. — Christmas Cantata: "Let heaven and Nature Sing" (VC)

Monday, Dec. 11

9:30 a.m. — WHFMS Meeting (VC Room 5)

1:30 p.m. — VCBI Class, Donald Wrigley (VC Room 5)

Tuesday, Dec. 12

8:30 a.m. — Men's Bible Study (VC Room 5)

6:30 p.m. — WHFMS Meeting (OPR)

Wednesday, Dec. 13

10:00 a.m. — The Bethlehem Star, Steve Reas (VC Room 5) - Scripture, History and Astronomy

6:00 p.m. — Prayer Meeting (BC)

Friday, Dec. 14

10:00 a.m. — Bible Study, Donald Wrigley (VC Room 5)

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m. — "Cookies and Carols" cookie potluck (bring your favorite cookie to share) and Christmas carol singalong (RDR)

Sunday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve communion service (VC)

VILLAGE GROCER

Tony Harmony—386-658-3130

Due to electrical problems at the VS, the Grocer is unable to supply a specials advertisement for this FNN. Next week's specials will be advertised at the store.

MEMBER SERVICES

James Sutter—386-658-5400

Member Services Tip of the Week

The new shuttle bus schedule took effect this week. New things always require a little adjustment time. We believe the new system will provide better customer

photo to share with friends and family even in this digital age. If you are looking for a Christmas background, we have a fun photo op set up in the JKPL for that perfect Christmas picture! Come by any time the JKPL is open, pose, smile, and snap away!

Christmas at the JKPL

As you are looking at all of the wonderful Christmas decorations, be sure to stop by the JKPL. From the nutcrackers in the glass display case to the Christmas village gracing our shelves, we're all decked out! Take a picture at the photo op set up, and kids can put their faces in the holes of the snowman or elf picture place in the kids room. We're in the holiday spirit at the JKPL!

Starbooks Café

Do you enjoy a good discussion over an even better cup of coffee? Join the fun and diverse group that convenes every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. to discuss a pre-arranged topic led by our very own Wayne Casey. Starbooks Café is always ready to welcome new faces, so give the coffee and conversation a try; maybe its flavor will suit your palate! The topic of the week is below.

Starbooks Café Topic of the Week:

Describe the most captivating artwork or music you've ever seen or heard?

Weekly JKPL Meetings:

Starbooks Café	Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.
Crochet Creations	Thursdays	3:00 p.m.
Kids Corner	Saturdays	11:00 a.m.

BUS TRIPS

If you wish to ride the ACV bus on these trips, you must contact the IC in person or by phone at 658-3333 to sign up. Please be considerate of those who have allergies and limit your use of perfumes, aftershaves, and colognes when riding the bus.

WEEKLY LIVE OAK SHOPPING TRIPS

There is no charge for Village members to participate in the regular weekly Live Oak shopping trips. If you have questions, call Member Services at 658-5400.

Please remember to bring your own bags on the Wednesday shopping trips to assist in keeping everyone's purchases separate.

- **Dec. 13, Wednesday a.m.** — Publix — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Publix at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon.
- **Dec. 13, Wednesday p.m.** — Walmart — Leave CH at 1:15 p.m. and DH at 1:30 p.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 4:00 p.m. and return to the Village at 4:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 20, Wednesday a.m.** — Walmart — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon.
- **Dec. 20, Wednesday p.m.** — No shopping trip.
- **Dec. 27, Wednesday a.m.** — Save A Lot and Winn Dixie — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Save A Lot at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon. The bus will drop off Winn-Dixie on the way to Save A Lot, park at Save A Lot, and pick up at Winn-Dixie on the way home.
- **Dec. 27, Wednesday p.m.** — Walmart — Leave CH at 1:15 p.m. and DH at 1:30 p.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 4:00 p.m. and return to the Village at 4:30 p.m.

UPCOMING BUS TRIPS

Dec. 8 — Valdosta Shopping

Dec. 15 — Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

Dec. 16 — Community Concerts of Lake City: Gainesville Pops

Dec. 18 — Thomasville

Dec. 19 — Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

Dec. 23 — Stephen Foster Festival of Lights

☞ At the Village Square ☜

Riverside Gifts

Unique Christmas gifts for men, women and children fill our shelves! There are stocking stuffers, light-up gnomes with long beards, and money/gift certificate holders.

Come see the excellent selection of Bibles and devotionals for adults and children. There are also sketch pads, art pencils, and coloring books for artistic endeavors.

The large variety of tiny blown-glass nativities in a variety of styles are available at a very reasonable price. Each has a ribbon so it can be hung on your tree or in your window.

Christmas door/lawn flags are in stock as are the poles for the lawn flags. There are also mailbox covers and a variety of other seasonal flags.

Stop in to see the soft 100% silk mulberry scarves with their delightful designs, and larger pashmina shawls in their rich colors. Each mulberry scarf has directions for different ways to wear it and comes with a box.

Reminder: Watch batteries can be replaced for a reasonable price. Stop in for details.

658-5771. Open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Rustic Shop

We have tree decorations, lights, strands of beads, and tabletop decorations, including nativity sets. There are also fully decorated trees, handmade tree ornaments, and unique stocking stuffers.

Christmas dishes include festive single dishes and a complete table setting. Other items related to your meals include aprons, hot pads, and kitchen towels to brighten your home for the holidays.

There is still time to mail out Christmas cards to friends and family. We have a good selection of boxed cards and single cards.

Reminder: Thursday is the day to drop off clothing to be repaired or altered. Bag your item, attach a note with your name and contact information, and what alterations need to be done.

658-5273. Open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Twice Nice Shop

Dec. 1–14 clothing sale: ladies' skirt suits and men's suits, pants, and sport coats are on sale for half price. Check out the great selection of colorful scrub tops and slacks, cozy pajamas, and warm sweatshirts. A large group of very nice sweaters is now in stock and so are great holiday-themed tops and t-shirts.

The Book Nook sales continue through Christmas. Magazines are 25¢ each, hardbound fiction and nonfiction books are 50¢ each, CDs are five for \$1.00, and DVDs are three for \$1.00. VHS tapes are free! Remember, Bibles and hymnals are always free in the Book Nook!

658-5271. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

☞ On CR 250 ☜

Twice Nice Furniture & More

23353 CR 250 • 658-5871

Mondays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

First Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Feeling those cooler nights? We have blankets in every size! Lots of afghans, too. We even have cozy pajamas and robes. The Christmas rack has sweaters and t-shirts waiting for you. There are Christmas flags and wreaths, door décor, wrapping paper, ribbon, and decorations galore.

service to everyone overall. Have a little patience as the bus drivers get used to the new schedule, and feel free to share your feedback at 658-5400.

Scam Tip of the Week: Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams

Imposters claiming to be with the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office or a private law firm will call or email a potential victim and tell them they have won the Publisher's Clearinghouse sweepstakes, a foreign sweepstakes or a foreign lottery. Victims are told they need to pay customs duties or taxes before the winnings can be sent to them. Legitimate sweepstakes do not require you to pay anything to receive the prize you have won. If you are told that you must pre-pay taxes, you are probably being scammed. Taxes can either be withheld from a cash award or, more commonly, are reported by the company to the IRS, and you declare the prize on your annual tax return. Also, know that participating in a foreign lottery is against federal law.

If you believe you are the victim of a scam, file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office online at www.myfloridalegal.com or by phone at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM. You may also file a complaint with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which acts as the State's consumer complaint clearinghouse, at www.floridaconsumerhelp.com. (Source: The Florida Attorney General's Office)

TV2

Though it was not added to next week's TV2 Guide, the Christmas cantata will air live on TV2 at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon.

VILLAGE PHARMACY

Lee Anne Tadlock—386-658-5860

The Village Pharmacy will be closed from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 15.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Mike and Jan Cuddy—386-658-5251
volunteering@acvillage.net

I have always appreciated the shepherds' part of the Christmas story. You just cannot talk about Jesus being born without mentioning who got the news first. Shepherds are mentioned several places in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Moses was a shepherd, as was a young boy named David when they were called to serve the Lord.

While we were at Central Christian Church in Saint Petersburg, Florida, our family took part in their annual Bethlehem Experience. Mike was a tour guide, our young daughter was an angel (of course!), and our 13-year-old son was Joseph. I was an extra and was called upon to take someone's place. I got to be Isaiah. It was cold every night, but we were all excited to take part in this marvelous outdoor pageant. They had live animals, and our son was having problems with the donkey. The second night he wore his dad's steel toed boots. We adapted and became what was needed.

The highlight for me was watching as the guests would meander through each scene, listening and observing. The church had been doing this every year for a long time. It was very well presented. You could hear laughter and sighs from the visitors. However, the best portrayal for me was when the angels appeared to the shepherds. The cast were men — some older, some younger, and even a girl or two. I wondered: Why the shepherds? Sheep were certainly important. They had to be taken care of, even through the night. And here they were, being given the opportunity to visit the new born king and then go and tell others the Good News!

As volunteers, we get to be like those shepherds. We have the privilege of caring for each

Have you taken some activity photos at ACV you'd like to share? Send them to jsutter@acvillage.net with a little description. They may be featured on ACV's Facebook page.



other and serving where needed. Sometimes we are tour guides, sing like angels, wear steel toed boots, or even take someone else's place to get things done. Most of all, we get to share with each other about the Good Shepherd.

CLUB NEWS

VILLAGE ARCHIVES

Millie Griswold, Reporter

The History Window theme for December is "Christmas Traditions at ACV". This five-minute visual presentation describes Christmas traditions that developed during the 110-year history of Advent Christmas Village. For example,

- For 100 years, the Live Oak Rotary Club has brought dinner and Santa to the campus, first for the children, and today to DM.
- An 83-year tradition is residents receive a free Christmas dinner.
- For 49 years the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony serves to light the whole campus, and a Chrismon Tree has adorned the church.
- For 23 years the Village president has provided an afternoon Christmas tea/reception.
- For 18 years CCC has sponsored a Parade on Wheels.
- For 18 years camels from the East have welcomed residents to the Phillips Center. These camels were constructed by Bud and Joyce Royal.

The History Window is located at the VS opposite the door into the Village Grocer. The History Window is a project of the Brooks Village Archive.

BRIDGE CLUB

Betsey Ruehl, Reporter

The Bridge Club meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the OPR. If you would like to play, please call Betsey Ruehl by noon on Monday at (386) 658-1766. If you cannot reach Betsey, call Betty Driggers at 658-1043.

Congratulations to our Nov. 29 winners: 1st high, Betty Driggers, and 2nd high, Betsey Ruehl.

Those who would like to learn how to play or would like a refresher should call Betsey.

GARDEN CLUB

Ann Thompson for Sandra Kelly, Reporter

The Community Garden is looking bright and green thanks to the recent rains and the healthy fall vegetables.

Reminder, our Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 15, at 12:00 noon in the Youth Lodge at Camp Suwannee. This will replace our December monthly meeting. Please contact Betsey Ruehl at 658-1766 with your RSVP if you haven't already done so. Each member is requested to bring a covered dish to share. There will be a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 and indicate if it is for a man or woman or either. We hope to see you there for fun, food, games and fellowship.

VILLAGE LIBRARY

Monday–Friday

10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon & 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Brenda Reas, Reporter

In front of the windows in the Village library is the card catalog, and just to the right of that are new-to-us books ready for check-out. Among these are *Icercutter's Daughter* by Tracie Peterson, *River's Edge* by Terri Blackstock, which is in large print, as well as a few books by authors who live here at ACV. Beyond the windows is the Hidden Garden, which is accessible from the library and always beautiful to look at.

Please have your ACV ID badge available when you come to check out books and DVDs. We are located in the Schoolhouse Room between the OPR and IC. Our drop box is located around the corner across from the restrooms (beneath the bulletin board), and you may return books and DVDs there at any time.

While the library is only open certain hours, the computer lab is available 24/7. To use the computer lab

when the library is closed, you must check out the key from the IC. A Village ID is required. Please do not take books or DVDs when a volunteer is not present to check them out for you.

PEN PAL PROGRAM

A Committee of the Membership Association
Monica Serlick, Reporter

I have RSVP'd for the entire group for the Christmas Banquet at the Ranch on Monday, Dec. 11, at 6:00 p.m. and the bus should return by 9:00 p.m. If you have to cancel please let me know so I can explain your absence to your pen pal. They really look forward to seeing you and truly worry if you can't make it. We will be using our new trip bus! It will leave from CH promptly at 5:00 p.m. Those who were planning to travel by car may go to the IC to pay the \$3.00 fee and ride on the bus. It is large enough to accommodate the entire group. If you choose, you are allowed to bring Christmas gifts to your pen pal.

NOTE: There will be a meeting of the pen pals on Friday, Jan. 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the OPR next to the Lopin' Gopher. Please plan to attend. Sheriff St. John will be our guest; he will present one of our resident pen pals with an award. We have several new pen pals, and we will review the past year. We will also look at the possibility of hosting the youth here at ACV. Additionally, a collection will be taken for the purchase of a gift card. We should attain our goal if folks can donate \$3.00 or more.

The annual 66th Open House at the Ranch will be held Feb. 23–25. The Village is planning to attend on Saturday, Feb. 24. More details at the January meeting.

If you would like to be a pen pal, please contact me at (386) 330-4865 and leave a message. I will call you back.

"Every child deserves a champion — an adult who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be" (Rita Pierson).

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Rev. Michael Saunders, Reporter

LONELINESS Is No. 1

Did you know that loneliness is the No. 1 mental health problem in America? It affects the over-65 population in the greatest numbers. Because loneliness is something many people live with, it is usually overlooked as a mental health issue — but it truly is. There are mental health professionals that deal with this. But most people don't use them because they think this is somehow "normal". By the way, being alone and being lonely are two different things.

Stephen Ministries is a ministry that is designed for Christians to help Christians overcome loneliness and many other issues and trials. How? By being a friend that will walk through life with you ... someone to talk to, pray with, read Scriptures together ... someone to listen to your cares and to love you in Christ.

We are actively working on bringing Stephen Ministries to the ACV. If you would like to minister to your hurting and lonely neighbors, please come and join us and be trained as a Stephen Minister. If interested please contact Rev. Robin Copeland or myself at 658-5378 or stephenministries@acvillage.net.

VILLAGE VOICES

Nancy Seale, Reporter

Happy December to you! I can't believe that three weeks from now we will have celebrated Christmas and be awaiting the new year! It's so crazy! Where is time going?

I have found some quotes that I want to share with you. We have been focusing on thankfulness and gratitude, and will continue to throughout December. It's so important to give thanks to God for His special gift to us!

"No amount of regret changes the past. No amount of anxiety changes the future. But any amount of gratitude changes the present" (Marc and Angel Chernoff).

"It is always possible to be thankful for what is given rather than to complain about what is not given.

One or the other becomes a habit of life" (Elisabeth Elliot).

"Holding a grudge doesn't make you strong; it makes you bitter. Forgiving doesn't make you weak; it sets you free" (Dave Willis).

And lastly, here is one from Max Lucado, one of my favorite authors: "As gratitude increases, anxiety diminishes. Anxiety will not share a heart with gratitude."

As we begin this final month of 2023, it is my desire for you to join me in taking time to focus on the theme of "Strength and Courage" for the upcoming edition of *Village Voices*. Many have taken advantage and shared their submissions.

We have lived through the experience of the hurricane coming on the coattails of the pandemic. We have experienced God's hand of protection upon our precious community.

Never have I experienced the emotions that I had Sunday night as we stood outside awaiting the traditional tree lighting. In that time of waiting as I looked around, I was overwhelmed by the fact that CH and DH and all the other buildings had never looked more beautiful. Even before the lights came on, in the darkness of the surroundings, God's light was shining in the hearts of the folks there. His light shone on the faces around me.

Because our Village survived the hurricane, we have trees, bushes and buildings to decorate. And it is during this time of struggling that our Village has found the strength and courage to carry on. Our strength comes from God, and our struggles make us stronger.

Becoming inspired and motivated after submitting earlier, many have asked if additional submissions are allowed. The answer is absolutely! Please take advantage of the additional time to share your stories and artwork of strength and courage.

You can find previously published issues of *Village Voices* for enjoying within the ACV library located between the Lopin' Gopher and the IC. They are also in the Shirley Brooks Archive adjacent to the JKPL. The Twice Nice Shop at the VS has a selection for purchase at an amazingly low price should you want to take a copy with you to enjoy.

You may submit your submissions to me by emailing me at basketcasenan51@gmail.com, or you can place them in the envelope in MS.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

BUTTERFIELD ACRES

Jack "CrackerJack" Dixon, Reporter

Wow, did we get some good news from our insurance company. They said that we qualified for a new roof, and they would pay for it. YIPPIE SKIPPIE, what a shock that was, and we are so forever grateful to the Lord for His blessing. Now all we have to do is find one company that has the time to do it. We have three estimates/interviews scheduled, and it will be interesting to see how they compare. Thanks to our three neighbors who have recommended the roofer that is doing their work for them. Our prayer is that God will lead us to the one right for us.

Our post-Christmas potluck is now scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 11, at 5:00 p.m., at the Harmony Center. We will have a buffet of your favorite concoctions and dessert to share. No main entrée will be provided so use your imagination and bless us all. Following we will be having our fun-filled Chinese Auction, and we are asking each person who wants to participate to please bring a wrapped gift under \$10 to share in the fun. If you do not want to participate in this, let me know.

I am thinking we need to up our BA dues to \$10 per person (max \$20 per household) as prices escalate in our ever changing world today. I hope you will consider this raise in our annual dues as we will vote on it that night. Thank you.

With Christmas upon us, there are so many things going on in our Village. I hope everyone will come out and celebrate our Savior's birth and be a part of the fellowship and good food.

Arlene Williamson is recuperating from a hospital stay. Dot Morey has transferred to DM. Please keep these "angels" in your thoughts and prayers. Mike Hitchcock needs prayers for healing. Steve and Dot Shuman just returned from a two-week trip to Maine. They brought Steve's 99-year-old mother back; she will be living with them. Please pray for a good transition to their home. It is good to see Judy DiBenedetto back from Ohio and walking her two beautiful dogs, Gail and Dot. I understand her hubby will be joining them soon.

Ya know some folks call it multi-tasking. I call it doing something else while I am trying to remember what I was doing in the first place!

Have you ever wondered why people have to get ready for bed? Heck, I am ready for bed all the time! I try to figure out why people ask me what I am going to do tomorrow; I guess they assume that I even know what day of the week it is!

From the veranda of our humble abode overlooking the ever-so-smooth and dust-free 102nd Trail in beautiful BA, be kind and smile to all you meet, remember "JESUS is the reason for the season", and never forget who is in charge. Isaiah 40:28-31. God bless!

CARDINAL/MAGNOLIA TERRACE

A short CT/MT and RV joint Christmas gathering has been planned for Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Everyone will be getting an invitation. If you have an idea for something to do at this gathering, call MS at 658-5400.

CARTER HOUSE

Monica Serlick, Reporter

We have five birthdays coming up this week. Warmest wishes go out to Evelyn Gillette on Dec. 9, Janna Shamlaty on Dec. 10, Rosemary Eakins on Dec. 14, Sally Anderson on Dec. 15, and Kenny Wood of Wilson Gardens also on Dec. 15. Blessings for all to have a wonderful day and remember, life is a journey ... forget the past; look forward to the future, for the best things are yet to come. You have to get older, but you don't have to grow up (Proflowers.com). Love the life you live, and have a fabulous happy birthday!

If you have any news you would like to share with others, please call and give me details. Please continue to keep those who are ill, recovering or struggling in your prayers.

The holiday season is in full swing as the Village is lit up in all its magical splendor. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for waking up the Christmas spirit in the people who live on our campus. As we head into the Christmas season it is important to always remember the reason for the season: our Savior Jesus Christ! Let us all support and enjoy the many special activities going on this month.

There are many people who don't feel the same about celebrating this time of year as it may bring up memories they don't wish to revisit. Let us all try to be mindful and considerate of other people's feelings and struggles during this time. If you are one of these people or you know someone who is, please encourage them to seek out someone they can speak to who will help them. It could be a friend, neighbor, counselor, pastor, or their service coordinator. Sharing the load lightens the load.

December for me can be a roller coaster of emotions. I thankfully am blessed to get a year older, my youngest granddaughter was born this month and between these two dates is the anniversary of the death of a loved one. Above all of this is the celebration of our Lord and Savior who reminds me that through everything, I am the beloved child of my God, and that makes the difference for me. Remember that you are not alone and that you are loved.

During this time of year we often see folks, children and animals we don't recognize on campus. Many come to visit their family members so remember to wave and welcome them to our village. If you have family members coming to visit and they bring their pets, it is up to you as a resident to let them know the rules regarding pets. Your visiting pets and their owners are welcome to use the dog park but must also follow the posted rules.

Remember to be respectful of other residents and visitors. Please do not confront anyone if you think they are violating any of ACV's rules or policies. If you see anything that you believe is out of the ordinary or inappropriate, please contact the IC at 658-3333 and report it. They will ensure someone is sent to check things out. This is your home, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

EDGEWOOD TERRACE **Verna Piper, Reporter**

Hello again, ET! Your regular reporter, Sandra Kelly, asked me to fill in for her this week as she is taking an unplanned visit to Gainesville for a few days. She hopes to be home next week.

This is a reminder for all of you: Our area "Christmas Party" is this Saturday, Dec. 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Youth Lodge. Don't forget your gift and something yummy to share.

I, Verna, also would like to have your Dacier Christmas gifts by Dec. 12.

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER AND DACIER MANOR **Bruce Arnold, Reporter**

Mark 13:37, "What I say to you, I say to everyone. Watch!"

For centuries, prophets had spoken of the coming of the Messiah, the Savior. The people of Israel anticipated a deliverer, one who would bring justice and an end to the misery they had suffered for so long. God brought that Deliverer in an unexpected way — in a baby born in a little town, and laid in a manger. God's scope of deliverance was far beyond the thoughts and expectations of the people.

Though the Deliverer came, the physical situation of the people didn't change, and that caused some to overlook God's unexpected hope that he had brought. Yet to those who recognized the Savior, a new hope dawned, and there was a great cause for rejoicing!

God had delivered them from a far greater evil than Roman occupation! He had delivered them from sin and death, and brought the hope of eternal life. Today we may look around in our world and see so many problems, we may even cry out like the prophet, Isaiah, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you" (Isaiah 64:1 & 2)!

How easy it would be for God to just wave His hand and take all the troubles of this world away. Someone commented to me recently that God could wipe out all the evil in this world, yet it seems God doesn't care, and therefore this person has lost hope. The hope that God brought in our Savior Jesus is still alive today! As God brought an unexpected Hope then, we can also look toward an unexpected Hope, the Hope of the Second Advent of Jesus, which brings hope beyond any earthly hope. Jesus said, "Watch!" Look beyond man's efforts to bring hope to this world and find the unexpected hope we have in the return of Jesus.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at DM and GSC! Christmas trees and festive decorations have suddenly "appeared" throughout the buildings. Of course we know they don't just "appear", our activities staff and others have been very busy helping us move into the joyful Christmas season. Thanks for bringing this cheer to us!

We have entered the season of Advent, and last Sunday we lit the first candle in the Advent wreath, the candle of hope. This Sunday we will light not only the candle of hope, but we will add to it the candle of peace. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. in the Magnolia dining room at GSC. Scripture reading will be Mark 1:1-8, "Preparing for Peace".

Large print KJV Bibles are available by contacting me at barnold@acvillage.net or calling (386) 249-2792. I also have a number of used Bibles available in various versions and font sizes. If you could use one of these, please feel free to contact me.

PARK OF THE PINES **Liz Reynolds, Reporter**

New updated maps of our neighborhood will be distributed to residents this week with the FNN. Welcome to new residents Judy Kewer; Arlene Hodge; Richard McClain and his daughter, Laurie Croce; and Michelle Martel.

Several residents have moved since Hurricane Idalia came through. We will miss Ginny Hammond, Donna Gibbs, Peggy Zachow, and Birdie Hillstromb, but hope all are settling in and happy in their new homes.

A short POP Christmas gathering has been planned for Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone will be getting an invitation. If you have an idea for something to do at this gathering, call MS at 658-5400.

RIVERWOODS

Betsey Ruehl, Reporter

Your RW neighbors are planning to deliver goodies (cookies, candy, fruit cups, crackers, tea bags, hot chocolate, chips, pretzels, etc.) to neighbors who are housebound or who have moved to other areas in ACV. We will gather in the CCC activity room from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 19 to assemble these gifts. Please bring your donations to CCC at that time. Last year the elves delivered approximately 40 goodie bags.

It appears the roaming dog may have found a new home.

While I was walking one morning, Ellie Ensign brought me some pretty flowers from her yard for my home. Thanks, Ellie.

The LaGeorges are preparing to host a "River Birch" gathering soon. Details will be shared as they come in.

We saw several of our neighbors at the handbell concert last Saturday. Everyone we spoke to mentioned how much they enjoyed it. The sounds were pretty amazing from the various sizes of bells. We appreciate the ability to coordinate the tunes with them. It must take a lot of flexibility. I, for one, am always impressed by the artistry of others.

Thought provoking quotes: "May you live all the days of your life" (Jonathan Swift). "Do not let making a living prevent you from making a life. Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder" (Rumi). Happy Hannukah!

SMITH RIVERVIEW

A short CT/MT and RV joint Christmas gathering has been planned for Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Everyone will be getting an invitation. If you have an idea for something to do at this gathering, call MS at 658-5400.

MEMBER BENEFITS

ACV offers a variety of programs and services to its members under the membership program. Members pay a monthly fee to provide supplemental support for this array of services and programs, meeting many of the varied needs of its members, as well as providing the opportunity to live his or her life to its fullest potential and highest level of independence. Some services you may not need today, you may well find important or essential in the future, and your financial participation makes it possible for your neighbor to have access to the services they need now.

This week's member benefit of note:

Only Village members may join Village-supported clubs such as the Garden Club, the Artists Guild, and the Watkins Hobby Shop. These clubs provide a range of benefits — physical, social and intellectual — and ACV has a vested interest in helping perpetuate their existence through the membership program.

ACV now offers a reduced-price activity fee for off-campus individuals who are interested in participating in some of ACV's activities without paying for full membership. For more information, contact MS at 658-5400.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

Chuck Eckel, Reporter

Judy Hatch is the featured artist in the Art Gallery display near the Lopin' Gopher. She provided the following background information:

I began quilting in 1990 by taking several adult education classes at the local high school. We were living in Maine at that time. I enjoyed learning to do paper piecing, crazy patch designs, along with hand embroidery stitching and watercolor designs.

In 1997 I joined the Chickadee Quilt Guild in Bridgton, Maine, which enabled me to attend a number of quilting workshops and learn new patterns and techniques. The guild hosted a large quilt show each summer, which allowed me to enter my quilts and wall-hangings.

Over the years I have made several quilts for nieces and nephews as wedding gifts and continue to do so for grandnieces and -nephews. My favorite materials to work with are batik fabrics, which have become very popular in recent years.

I have joined the Lady of the Lake Quilt Guild in Lake City and enjoy making charity quilts and crocheted baby afghans, which the guild donates to different groups throughout Lake City and Live Oak.

I praise God and thank Him for giving me the ability to undertake this hobby and provide beauty to this world through the use of a wide variety of fabrics and techniques.

BOB COPELAND'S NEWEST BOOK

Bob Copeland's newest book, *Overcoming the Temptations of the Spirit-Filled Life*, is now available on Amazon in Kindle format only.

Studying the temptations that the Spirit-filled Christ endured helps us uncover and overcome the temptations of the Spirit-filled life that we are called and empowered to live.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Members of the Men's Fellowship will be ringing the Salvation Army bell from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9. Look for the Red Kettle in the vicinity of the post office in the VS. We thank you in advance for participating in this worthwhile event for the Salvation Army. Your donations can be coins, cash or checks. We look forward to your generosity as has been experienced in past years. We hope to see you stuffing the Kettle with a portion of God's abundant blessing to you for the many worthwhile programs of the Salvation Army.

FROM BAGS TO BEDS

Verna Piper, Reporter

There are a LOT of bags to fold! Next gatherings are Fridays, Dec. 8 and 22, any time from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at my home, 11052 Dowling Park Drive.

NUTS! NUTS! AND MORE NUTS!

Verna Piper, Reporter

The ACV Garden Club thanks you for your support in this fundraising campaign. We now have four kinds available: pecan pieces, praline pecans, cashews and double-dipped chocolate peanuts. We'd love to have you get some for gifts, area gatherings, a hostess gift, or to stash away for movie night! Call Verna Piper at 208-1967.

HAIR CROPPERS

Starting Dec. 8 we are featuring our winter basic pedicure. Our winter basic pedicure allows you to relax and get away from this hectic time of year while enjoying the beautiful view of the river. You'll soak your feet in a warm foot bath, then enjoy an aromatic foot scrub, detoxifying foot mask, and warm paraffin dip. Finish with a tension-relieving foot massage.

Our winter basic pedicure costs \$50 and is the perfect solution for anyone who doesn't want polish but loves to feel pampered.

Schedule your appointment today by calling or texting (386) 205-3791.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Wendy B. Meyer, CFP®, CRPC®, CDFP®, financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC is at the Village on the third Wednesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December) from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the VS professional offices. Call (850) 973-8888 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

SQUARE CUTS AND MORE

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.

Call (386) 647-6240 for an appointment.

Kindly give 12-24-hour notice for cancellations or extra charges will apply.

LEGAL SERVICES

The law firm of Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A. will see clients by appointment only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the following dates in the VS professional offices: Dec. 15. To make an appointment, please call Leigh Ann Cannon at (386) 755-1334, Ext. 117.

ACV QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do you have a question about the Village you think others would also like to ask? Did you see something curious or hear something you'd like confirmed? Submit your question to Member Services, and we will do our best to find out the answer for you and publish it here. You must include your name with the question because follow-up information may be necessary.

Q: I'm interested in giving some financial support to ACV, but I would rather give toward something specific. Is there something a department needs that I can buy for them?

A: Darleen Hinrichs in Resource Development (658-5110) has a notebook of "need sheets" provided by different areas around campus. If you're interested in seeing what specific needs have been identified, schedule an appointment with Darleen.

THANK YOU

I want to express my sincere thanks for the prayers and good wishes for rapid healing on my behalf. The journey is not over, but with God's blessings and your continued prayer offerings, the destination will be successfully reached. God is good all the time. Merry Christmas to all.

Errol Gillette

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my family and my extended family and friends here at ACV for all the cards and good wishes you showered me with on my birthday. Special thanks to Bonnie Olson and Gracie Adams for my very original brownie cake and ice cream that was shared with our group on Monday night. Additionally, my dear friends Joe and Helen Brooks for making special éclair birthday cakes for me. You all make my days brighter just by being here. Love you all.

Monica Serlick

MISCELLANEOUS

PLEASE NOTE: All submissions to the FNN must have a name attached. If you prefer to not have your name included with the listing in the FNN, indicate that on the submission. Only ACV members and staff may advertise here. Ads run for two weeks.

FOR SALE: 26" Trailmate trike. Excellent condition. Asking \$400. Call Sharon at 658-1889. Leave a message, and I will call you back.**

LOST AND FOUND: Ring found near Twice Nice Shop. Must identify. Western hat found at Lopin' Gopher. Multicolor scarf. Contact the IC at 658-3333.*

FOR SALE: Toy cars for collector, gifts or ebay sellers. Different brands, sizes. Some used, some new in box.

\$150 for all. Zavor all-in-one air fryer, oven, toaster, dehydrator, rotisserie. Like new with box. \$50. Women's 1953 class ring, 14K gold with mother-of-pearl, \$100. Leave message at 386-658-1586.*

FREE: Navy blue leather sofa. Great condition. Recliner on each end. Contact Sally at 658-1658.*

MOVING SALE: Ladies tops s/m, antique dishes, twin automatic bed, Ted Dekker books, and a golf cart. Appointment only; call 207-877-4846.*

FOR SALE: New memory foam twin mattress topper from Walmart. 2" blue swirl, used twice. Retail for \$44, selling for \$30. Call or text 386-688-6610.*

FOR SALE: Journey Go Lite S1 scooter, blue in color, like new, used once in Gainesville mall. Will sell for 30% off my purchase price. Contact Lew at 334-200-6331.*

FOR SALE: Last call for gifts/stocking stuffers! Free organza bag for gifts. Cold process bar soap. Handcrafted with shea butter, cocoa butter, avocado oil, classic olive oil (not pomace), and coconut oil. No parabens, phthalates, sodium laurel sulfate, DEA, paba, palm oil or lard. Cured 6 weeks. 2½–3 oz. bar, \$2.50 each, 5–6 oz. bar, \$5.00 each. 20+ fragrance/essential oils & unscented. Contact Eirlys at 352-949-4748.*

FOR SALE: A large, handmade crocheted afghan, variegated/multicolored, \$50. Call 386-344-4566 for details.*

"PERSEVERANCE"

**By Patricia-Adele Lyons
From "Transmutation" by Lalah Delia**

Always remember this:
Grapes must be crushed to make juice,
Diamonds are formed under pressure,
Olives must be pressed to release oil, and
Seeds grow in darkness.
So, whenever you feel crushed, under pressure,
pressed, or in darkness,
You are in a powerful place of transformation.
The ones that God will use the most, are the ones that
God has bruised the most. Persevere, brothers and
sisters. The reward will be worth it.

THE SECRET GARDEN

By Eirlys Rawcliffe
Into the Secret Garden I do wander,
Lost in its beauty, I can only but ponder,
On the gifts I am given through God's pure love,

I have yet to realize all my blessings from above.
I try to perceive and fathom the glory,
Bestowed upon me as told in His story.
I walk through His garden so cared for by Angels,
And thank our dear Jesus, God's gift from the cradle!
In honor of Ellie Foerste and
ACV's Secret Garden

MERRY CHRISTMAS, DOWLING PARK

`Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town, no noses were frozen, no snow on the ground. No children in flannels were tucked in their beds; they all wore shortie pajamas instead. To find wreaths of holly was not very hard, for holly trees grow right in the yard. The slumbering kiddies were dreaming in glee, hoping to find water skis under the tree. There were no chimneys but that caused Santa no gloom, for he could come right through the Florida room. He stopped at every house, but stayed just a minute to empty his sack of the stuff that was in it. And before he departed, he treated himself to a glass of orange juice that sat on the shelf. Then he turned with a jerk and bounced into his car, remembering he yet had to go very far. Then he shifted his gears and stepped on the gas heading west on 250, he went like a flash. And I heard him exclaim as he sped on his way, "Merry Christmas, Dowling Park ... How I wish I could stay."

Written by Gene and Virginia Zipperer,
1990s Village employees

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Groceos | Limesotet |
| Nacloig | Vtianyit |
| Ratss | Gosctink |
| Sucnttshe | Uirasouv |
| Porduhl | Raweht |
| Nasta | Gisehl |
| Skacgeap | Wnamson |
| Hressephd | Ssjue |
| Granem | Straneomn |
| Galen | Shamstcir |

Provided by Patricia-Adele Lyons



The Youth Fellowship will be delivering **SINGING CHRISTMAS CARDS** Dec. 13–22. To send a Singing Christmas Card to a loved one or friend in the Dowling Park area, please fill out this form and return it to the Village Church office. We ask those sending a Singing Christmas Card to make a donation to our youth ministry program. Please make your check payable to the Village Church noting "Singing Christmas Cards" in the memo. Each greeting comes with a personalized Christmas card accompanied by Christmas carols sung by the members of our Youth Fellowship. Please remember, **ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2023.** If you have any questions, please call Pastor Randy at the church office at 658-5344.



Your Name

Phone Number

Person receiving the greeting

Address of person receiving the greeting

Special directions or instructions

Annual Parade On Wheels

~~Antique Cars, Golf Carts, Scooters & Bicycles~~

Friday, December 15, 2023

Parade begins at 2:30

All entries need to be at
Lake Aquilla parking lot at 2:00.



Refreshments will be served at
Copeland Community Center immediately
following the parade.

Judging will take place.

Midday Dining Menu

Monday–Saturday 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

December 8–15, 2023

FRIDAY, 12/8

- \$2.53 Soup:** Clam Chowder
\$6.44 Entrées: GF Baked Catfish, GF Boiled Shrimp, Fried Catfish, Stuffed Peppers
\$1.21 Sides: Mixed Greens, Beets, Baked Beans, Cheese Grits, Cold Salads, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

SATURDAY, 12/9

- \$2.53 Soup of the Day**
\$7.59 Whistle Stop Special: Philly Chicken Sandwich, French Fries, Pasta Salad, Assorted Desserts, Fountain Drink

SUNDAY, 12/10

♪ Piano music provided by Joan Wittman. ♪

Lunch Buffet

Members \$12.63 | Non-Members \$17.81 | Beverage Included

- Entrées:** GF Roast Beef, Mushroom Spinach Crustless Quiche, Fried Chicken
Sides: California Vegetable Medley, Mushrooms, Cheesy Cauliflower, Fruit, Salad, Macaroni and Cheese, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

MONDAY, 12/11

- \$2.53 Soup:** Soup of the Day
\$6.44 Entrées: Liver and Onions, Sausage and Peppers
\$1.21 Sides: Mixed Greens, Beets, Cheesy Broccoli, Fruit, Cold Salads, Scalloped Potatoes
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

TUESDAY, 12/12

- \$7.70 Special:** Salad Bar
\$6.44 Entrées: Cordon Bleu, Chicken Parmesan
\$1.21 Sides: Italian Green Beans, Five-Way Vegetables, Fruit, Baked Potato, Cold Salad
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

NOTE: Prices listed are the retail cost per item. ACV members who present their ID badge at the cash register will receive a 10% discount. Menu is subject to change. Individual beverage cost: \$1.30.

GF=Gluten-Free NSA=No Sugar Added

Rumph Dining Room Midday Dining Menu

December 8–15, 2023

WEDNESDAY, 12/13

- \$2.53 Soup:** Soup of the Day
\$6.44 Entrées: Stuffed Cabbage, Fried Chicken
\$1.21 Sides: Cabbage, Lima Beans, Fruit, Cold Salads, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

THURSDAY, 12/14

- \$6.44 Entrées:** GF Spaghetti, Loaded Hot Dog
\$1.21 Sides: Honey Carrots, Corn, Cold Salads, Potato Chips
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

FRIDAY, 12/15

- \$2.53 Soup:** Lobster Bisque
\$6.44 Entrées: GF Baked Catfish, GF Boiled Shrimp, Fried Catfish, Lasagna
\$1.21 Sides: Mixed Greens, Beets, Baked Beans, Cold Salads, Cheese Grits, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
\$2.76 Desserts: Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts



RUMPH DINING RM. \$8.85 WEEKDAY VALUE PLATE

Includes 1 entrée, 2 sides, bread,
and a fountain drink.
For premium entrée, add \$2.30.



RIVER LANDING BISTRO LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

Friday, Dec. 8

Grilled Reuben

Saturday, Dec. 9

Pulled Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, and Cornbread

Ann & Quinton
Rumph
DINING ROOM

658-5259

Sun: 10:45 am–1:30 pm

Mon–Sat: 11 am–1 pm

THE LOPIN' GOPHER
D E L I

658-5259

Sun: 7:30–10 am | 3:30–7 pm

Mon–Fri: 7:30–10 am | 2:05–7 pm

Sat: 7:30–10:00 am | 3–7 pm



658-5777

Wed–Thurs: 11 am–2 pm

Fri–Sat: 8–10:30 am | 11 am–8 pm